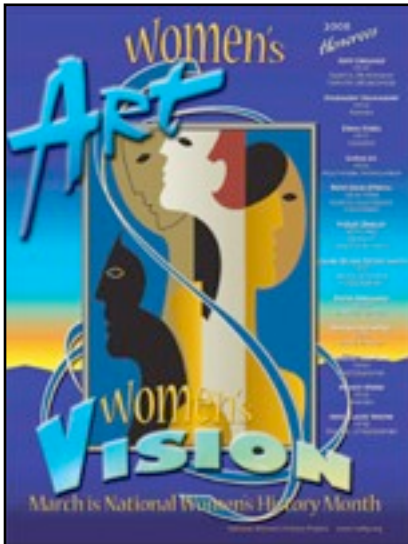


# ACCESS AMERICA

## Women's History Month

*Accomplishments Celebrated Every March*



*Logo for the Women's History Month 2008 theme, Women's Art: Women's Vision. (Courtesy of National Women's History Project)*

Washington -- In 1981, the U.S. Congress passed a

resolution establishing National Women's History Week. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month, and has since passed such a resolution every year.

Congressional action is followed by a U.S. presidential proclamation declaring March as Women's History Month.

Since its founding in 1980, the National Women's History Project (NWHPP) has recognized and celebrated the rich and varied contributions of women to the history and culture of the United States.

The National Women's History Project chose its 2008 national theme "Women's Art: Women's Vision" to honor the originality, beauty, imagination and multiple dimensions of

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women's lives. Women in the arts have left their valuable mark upon history. Theirs is the story of amazing accomplishments often acclaimed at the time but later forgotten.

This year's theme provides a special opportunity to discover

and celebrate women's visual arts in a variety of forms and mediums that help expand the perceptions of each other and ourselves.

The accomplishments of 12 women artists are being honored

*Continued on PAGE 2*

### From the Ambassador

The world has been transformed by the contributions of many strong women. During Women's History Month, established in the United States by a congressional resolution in 1987, we pause to recognize women who inspire us today to be better, wiser and more hopeful for the future. Some of these women are famous, such as Amelia Earhart who became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic; or Harriet Tubman, who fought racial injustice and opened doors for more Americans to participate fully in our society. Others are less well known; nonetheless, they serve as great role models for young women today. One such woman is physicist Chien-Shiung Wu who helped advance our knowledge and understanding of the world through her achievements in atomic research.

Women have had a long and important role in the United States addressing issues such as illiteracy, suffrage, slavery, poverty, and human rights, to name a few. They have also been inspiring artists, writers, and musicians. In too many countries around the globe, including the United States for many years, women have taken a public back seat to men. But, behind the scenes, women have had the fortitude and will to inspire and promote change. This month we celebrate these many women who have found their voices and defied odds to make great contributions to our global community. And we remember the words of Constance Baker Motley, the first black woman in the United States to become a Federal Judge: "Something which we think is impossible now is not impossible in another decade."

—Robert F. Godec

## From the IRC

### Books

*Women of the Harlem renaissance*  
Wall, Cheryl A.

*Understanding the gender gap*  
Goldin, Claudia Dale.

*Within the plantation household*  
Fox, Elizabeth Genovese

*Votes without leverage*  
Harvey, Anna L

### Movies

*Women and Minorities*  
English, 30 min, USIA, 1994,  
PAL.

(Government by Consent, 126)

Historically, women and minorities have not enjoyed the same treatment under the law as white males.

*Women In Business -Worldnet Dialogue*  
English, 60 min, USIA  
1996, PAL

Judith Barnett, a senior Commerce Department official, discussed with audiences in Jordan, Oman and Egypt on August 12 the role of women in business.

### Online resources

*Women and Social Movements today:*  
<http://womhist.alexanderstreet.com/links/today.htm>

*Women of Influence: "A Woman's Right to Vote"*  
<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/womeninfln/vote.htm>

— Khaled Ben Bhouzid  
& the IRC team

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in 2008. Two are historical figures: **Violet Oakley** (1874-1961), who in 1902 was commissioned to paint murals in the Pennsylvania capitol building -- the largest public commission given to an American woman up to that time -- and **Rose O'Neill** (1874-1944), one of the first

female cartoonists in America and the inventor of the Kewpie doll.

*This article is adapted from an article on [America.gov](http://America.gov), a web site delivering information about current U.S. foreign policy and about American life and culture produced by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Information Programs*

## Women of Influence

*American women that have changed history*

In recent years more and more societies all over the world have begun to recognize the vital contributions of women to commerce, their communities, and civic life. Whether it be Afghan women voting in a presidential election or women starting micro-businesses in Ethiopia, the worldwide trend toward greater equality is clear. Yet "the denial of women's basic human rights is persistent and widespread," as a 2005 United Nations Population Fund statement put it.

Throughout history, women played important roles in our society. Harriet Tubman and Anna Eleanor Roosevelt are among two of the most influential women in American history.

### Harriet Tubman Leader of the Underground Railroad (1820-1913)

Born a slave in Dorchester County, Maryland, Harriet Tubman was an extraordinary African-American woman who courageously freed herself from slavery by running away to safe haven in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1850, when the Fugitive Slave Act made it illegal to help a runaway slave, Tubman decided to join the "Underground Railroad," the network of people who helped slaves to their freedom.



*Harriet Tubman, far left, whose talents as Underground Railroad scout freed 300 slaves before the Civil War. (Hulton Archive/Getty Images)*

She guided 300 slaves through the Underground Railroad in the years leading up to the Civil War. Tubman made the perilous trip to slave country 19 times. On one trip she rescued her 70-year-old parents, bringing them to Auburn, New York. Auburn became her home, as well. She began an intensive speaking tour in 1860, calling not only for the abolition of slavery, but also for a redefinition of women's rights.

**Anna Eleanor Roosevelt**  
**"First Lady of the World" (1884-1962)**



Eleanor Roosevelt regarded her work on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as her greatest legacy. (United Nations)

Born to a rich and influential family in New York City, Anna Eleanor Roosevelt transformed the role of first lady during her husband Franklin Delano Roosevelt's presidency of the United States (1932-1945). She became an inspiration to millions around the world by giving a voice to the powerless: minorities, women, the poor, and the disadvantaged. She was a controversial figure to others because of her dedication to human rights, civil rights, and women's rights.

Once Roosevelt was elected president, Eleanor toured a country devastated by the Great Depression. She reported back to him on conditions and tirelessly promoted equal rights for women and minorities, child welfare, and housing reform. She became the first president's wife to hold regular press conferences, to write a syndicated column ("My Day") and do radio commentary, to go on the lecture circuit, and to address a political convention. After Franklin's death, President Harry Truman appointed her a delegate to the United Nations. She served as chairman of the U.N.'s Commission on Human

Rights and played a leading role in the drafting and adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy made her the chair of the President's Commission on the Status of Women, work she continued until her death in 1962.

President Truman admirably called Mrs. Roosevelt "First Lady of the World." She was, typically, more unassuming in describing her achievements: "I just did what I had to do as things came along."

*-Adapted from an article on <http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/womeninfo/>, a web site delivering information about how women in the United States have helped shape their society*

## Program Announcements



### Science & Technology Award

For outstanding Tunisian university students to study for a Ph.D. in science, technology, or engineering

[http://tunisia.usembassy.gov/latest\\_announcement\\_s.html](http://tunisia.usembassy.gov/latest_announcement_s.html)

### Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program

Nine month academic and professional study and related professional experience for mid-career professionals from a variety of fields.

[http://tunisia.usembassy.gov/latest\\_announcement\\_s.html](http://tunisia.usembassy.gov/latest_announcement_s.html)

### Fulbright Foreign Student Program

Masters or one year PhD research program at a U.S. university.

[http://www.amideast.org/programs\\_services/exchange\\_programs/fulbright/application\\_tunisia.htm](http://www.amideast.org/programs_services/exchange_programs/fulbright/application_tunisia.htm)

### International Educators Leadership Program (ILEP)

The program will consist of a semester-long academic program at a U.S. university, including coursework and intensive training in teaching methodologies

[http://tunisia.usembassy.gov/latest\\_announcements.html](http://tunisia.usembassy.gov/latest_announcements.html)



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



## Annette McCabe American Fulbright in Tunisia

### Home in the United States

Camas, Washington (Portland OR area)

### Home in Tunisia

Tunis, but my research took me to all parts of the country: Sfax, Jenduba, etc.

### Fondest memory of Tunisia

My favorite memories of Tunisia have been the wonderful families who have invited me into their homes and made me feel so welcome.

I've had the opportunity to visit families from all walks of life, from Bedouins living outside Douz to a mountain village near Jendouba, and everyone has treated me as an honored guest and shared so much of their lives.

### Briefly describe your experience

I came to Tunisia in 2003-2004 to conduct a research project on the change in women's roles and self-perceptions.

I found families from different locations and socio-economic backgrounds who had three generations of women:

grandmothers, mothers, and daughters.

These women told me their life stories, from growing up to marriage, to raising children. I also attended the Bourgiba school for language classes.

During my initial year I also came to love painting scenes from Tunisia, and did several expositions of my paintings from life here after my return to the U.S.

### Lessons learned

How to be patient with myself and with others.

### Advice for others

Try it! There is something really beautiful about realizing you feel "at home" somewhere so far from your real home. Living cross-culturally adds a richness to life that is irreplaceable.

### What I miss most about the U.S.

Family!

## Calendar

### Free English Conversation

#### Every Thursday

American Corner at AMIDEAST  
4:00 PM

*Weekly discussions on topics from films and music to religion. Topics are posted weekly in the American Corner and at AMIDEAST.*

### Study in the USA Consultations

#### Every Tuesday-Friday

AMIDEAST Advising Resource Library  
9:00 AM-4:00 PM

*Browse materials from U.S. universities consult resources on applications and scholarships.*

### Open Access

#### Every Monday-Friday

American Corner at AMIDEAST  
10:00 AM-6:00 PM

*Peruse books and magazines in English on topics from history to pop culture and more.*

American Corner at AMIDEAST  
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